

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 15 and 16 are amended and claims 17-18 are canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Chapman during the interview held October 6, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

I. Provisional Rejection Under Obviousness-Type Double Patenting

The Office Action provisionally rejects claims 1-18 for obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-16 of co-pending Application Serial No. 10/669,728.

Applicants file a Terminal Disclaimer, which is attached with this Amendment, to obviate the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection. Accordingly, withdrawal of the provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection is respectfully requested.

II. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or under U.S.C. §103(a) over Ikeuchi I (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0044031); rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Torikoshi (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/182520); and rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Matsuo (U.S. Patent No. 5,731,116) in view of Ohishi (U.S. Patent No. 6,656,649), and further in view of Ikeuchi II (U.S. Patent No. 6,524,760). The rejections are respectfully traversed.

Ikeuchi I, Torikoshi, Matsuo, Ohishi and Ikeuchi II do not disclose or suggest the substrate has a load deflection temperature of at least 115°C, as recited in independent claims 1, 10, 15 and 16.

Ikeuchi I at paragraph [0038] discloses that the substrate film 1 is made of thermoplastic resin. Ikeuchi I, however, does not disclose or suggest any load deflection temperature associated with the substrate 1. Likewise, Ikeuchi II at col. 3, line 65-col. 4, line 20 discloses that the substrate 1 is made of thermoplastic resin, but makes no mention of its load deflection temperature characteristics.

Torikoshi discloses at paragraph [0038] that a plastic film is used as a substrate, but is silent as to the load deflection temperature characteristics.

Matsuo at col. 16, lines 26-37 discloses that the support member 15 can be a flexible plastic film, metal foil and so forth. But Matsuo does not disclose or suggest any load deflection temperature characteristics associated with the support member 15. Ohishi, on the other hand, teaches away the subject matter of the claims because Ohishi discloses at col. 2, lines 56-58 that the recording medium is preferably a thermoplastic resin having a temperature of flow beginning of 100°C.

Additionally, at least for the reasons discussed above, none of the references disclose or suggest a surface of a substrate including polycarbonate, as recited in independent claim 1, and similarly recited in independent claims 15 and 16.

Further, Ikeuchi I, Torikoshi and Ikeuchi II disclose using PET films. As disclosed in Comparative Example 3 in the application at pages 88-89, PET films have a load deflection temperature of 98°C, and are not within the scope of the claimed invention. In fact, the application at page 16 discloses that the substrate having a load deflection temperature of less than 115°C is poor in tenacity.

In addition, Matsuo does not disclose or suggest an electrophotographic laminate film, but instead discloses a recording medium for retaining electrostatic information. Thus, if Matsuo were to be combined with Ohishi and/or Ikeuchi II, the combination would not render obvious the features of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, none of the applied references disclose or suggest a solvent contained in the coating liquid permits at least one of the coating layer and function control means to be formed while dissolving the surface of the substrate, as recited in independent claim 15.

Therefore, independent claims 1, 10, 15 and 16 define patentable subject matter. Claims 2-9 and 11-14 depend from the respective independent claims, and therefore also define patentable subject matter as well as for the other features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Terminal Disclaimer
Petition for Extension of Time

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